



August 15, 2002

Dear Michigan Partners:

It is my pleasure to announce a call for nominations for *The Governor's Excellence In Practice Award*, now in its third year. This prestigious award recognizes best achievements in preparing students for careers. Awards will be presented during the opening session of the *Governor's Conference on Career Development* on February 4, 2003, at the DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids.

The theme of this year's conference is *Meeting the Competitive Challenge: Skills for the 21st Century*. We expect that an excellent practice will be part of a comprehensive Career Development System, in which educators and employers collaborate to meet the challenge of preparing students for successful careers.

This award recognizes successful, sustained practices and programs that are outstanding in themselves, yet part of a broader career development system. An excellent practice is one that produces important and measurable results for your students, works best in your community for preparing students for careers, demonstrates partnerships between educators and employers, and is sustained in a significant and integrated manner within your local educational system or community.

Eligible nominations may be successful new initiatives or established programs at the building, local or intermediate school district, regional educational service agency, community college, or university level. Key employer partners, charter schools, and trade academies are also eligible for consideration. Proposals still in development, or not fully implemented, will not be considered.

Because of the leadership role the Education Advisory Group (EAG) plays in Michigan's Career Development System, award nominations should be submitted through the EAG. More than one nomination may be submitted by an EAG. Please note that the application form requires the EAG Chairperson's signature. Application instructions and selection criteria, are attached and are also posted on our Web site, www.michigan.gov/mdcd. All nominations must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2002**.

I encourage you to vigorously seek nominees from your area for this prestigious award. Please call Ms. Donna Beltz at (517) 373-8204, if you have any questions regarding the nomination criteria or need more information. I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bolin, Ph.D.
Director



The Governor's Excellence in Practice Award

recognizes Michigan's best achievements
in preparing students for careers.
Due Date: October 11, 2002

We are looking for excellent practices that:

- ❖ best meet community needs for preparing students for careers;
- ❖ produce important and measurable results for participating students;
- ❖ are an integral part of and sustain the local educational system and community;
- ❖ may be a successful innovation or an established program; and
- ❖ exhibit partnerships between educators and employers.

DIRECTIONS

Describe your practice by answering the following questions. Answer each question in order. Please keep each response brief but be sure that it clearly shows how the practice is linked to a comprehensive career preparation system. A maximum of seven pages will be accepted, including attachments. The cover page (see attached) is not counted. Use at least a 12-point font; no italics or script font, please.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- 1. Tell us why you believe your practice is an excellent practice for preparing students for careers.**
For example, how does your practice fit within your career preparation system? Does it include high academic standards? Are proper assessments done? Does it involve significant opportunities for career awareness, exploration, development, and planning? Does it actively engage the student and involve the parents? Is there a real-world component? Is there an employer partner? (20 pts.)
- 2. Who are your partners in this practice, and what roles do they play?**
For example, explain the significance of the partners and their roles, in the context of your community. Partners may include, but are not limited to: K-12 education, community colleges, 4-year colleges or universities, employers, labor groups, community agencies, or parent groups. (10 pts.)
- 3. We expect your practice to be fully integrated into your educational system and community. Describe how this has occurred in your practice.** *For example, if the practice you nominate is less than your whole system, explain in detail how this practice fits into your comprehensive career preparation system. How is this practice aligned with Career Pathways? Is there a real-world connection with the workplace, with the community, or with postsecondary education? (15 pts.)*
- 4. What are you trying to accomplish?** *For example, are your objectives clearly stated in measurable terms? Do they truly prepare students for careers? How are students affected by this practice? (10 pts.)*

(Selection Criteria continued)

- 5. What are the results of your practice?** *For example, how has this practice made a difference for your students? Are the results measurable, consistent with goals, sustainable, and systemic? Does this practice reflect Michigan's career preparation system goals? Does this practice give students a wide range of choices?* (15 pts.)
- 6. How do you know your practice is effective in preparing students for careers?** *For example, what is the evidence? How do you evaluate your practice?* (15 pts.)
- 7. What student career needs are being met? What partner needs are being met?** *For example, how are students better prepared for careers as a result of your practice? Is there evidence of work-place readiness skills attainment? Is there a link to career and/or labor market information?* (10 pts.)
- 8. Can or has your practice been replicated? Would you assist with replication, if asked?** Briefly describe to what extent you would be prepared to assist with replication. (5 pts.)

Nomination information and the form are also available at
www.michigan.gov/mdcd for downloading.

Please contact Ms. Donna Beltz, (517) 373-8204,
or e-mail her at beltzd@michigan.gov with application questions.